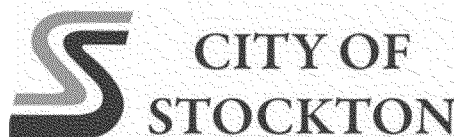
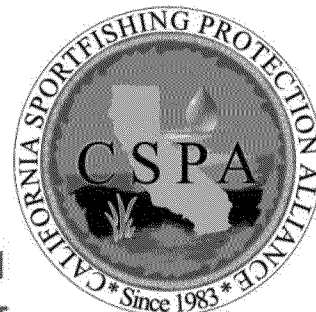




SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN
IRRIGATION DISTRICT



West Delta Chapter

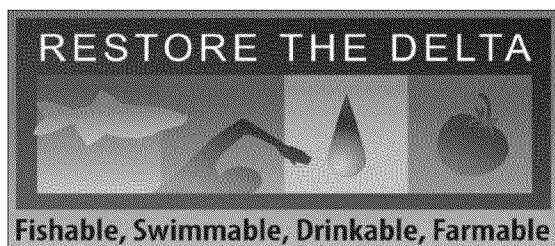


california
water impact
network



*Lower Sherman Island Duck
Hunters Association*

*Sacramento,
The River City Chapter*



Restore the Delta

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February 27, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

RE: OPPOSE H.R. 1837 (Nunes)

Dear Speaker Boehner:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge you to oppose the "San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act," (H.R. 1837), which was introduced by Representative Nunes. Furthermore, we do not believe that this bill merits a vote by the U.S. House of Representatives.

H.R. 1837 overrides the public trust as defined in the California Constitution and state water laws. It reverses the long-standing Congressional principle that the federal government should follow state water law whenever possible.

H.R. 1837 would reduce water quality and water availability for Delta communities and Delta farmers. It seeks to ensure water flows to corporate agribusiness in the western and southern San Joaquin Valley at the expense of Delta family farmers. The recently-released Economic Sustainability Report authored by the Delta Protection Commission shows that Delta agriculture is worth \$4.2 billion annually and provides tens of thousands of jobs. Delta agriculture and jobs should not be sacrificed to benefit water users in other parts of the state, some of whom do not even use that water for agriculture.

H.R. 1837 would hinder efforts to restore fish populations in the Delta. Science-based protections for salmon and other endangered species are required under both California state law and the Endangered Species Act. Since 2009, the State of California has consistently opposed legislation that would weaken the Endangered Species Act in the San Francisco Bay-Delta and Estuary. Title I of H.R. 1837 would substitute measures that were part of a short-term agreement in 1994, when the health of the Delta had not deteriorated so seriously and when recent scientific studies had not yet been done.

H.R. 1837 would reverse San Joaquin River restoration, thereby further impacting water quality and quantity for the south Delta. While the San Joaquin River restoration allows for a limited flow of additional water into the south Delta, breaking the promise of San Joaquin River restoration would signal to Delta communities the federal government's sacrifice of the Delta for the preference of another region in California.

This deeply-flawed bill joins a long list of water strategies created behind closed doors without input from the Delta communities that rely on a healthy Delta for their livelihoods. It threatens the economic security of families, farmers, and small business owners in the Delta, as well as those in the Delta and Northern California who depend on recreational and commercial fisheries. It also threatens the urban economy surrounding the Delta – an area that is home to four million Californians and that is dependent on the Delta to meet its water user needs.

H.R. 1837 deserves your opposition.

Sincerely yours,



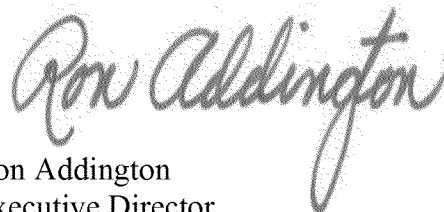
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Restore the Delta



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Delta Coalition Chair



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California Water Impact Network



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Jeff Shields
General Manager
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Bill Jennings
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Bill Wells
Bill Wells
Executive Director
California Delta Chambers & Visitor's Bureau

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Jack Chapman
State Board President
California Striped Bass Association

Jeremy Terhune
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Executive Director
Friends of the Lower Calaveras River

John Beckman
Chief Executive Officer
BIA of the Delta

Steve Dial
Steve Dial
Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer
San Joaquin Council of Governments

Bobby Barrack
Professional Bass Fisherman
Back to Class Guide Service

Jack Chapman
Jack Chapman
President
CSBA Sacramento, The River City Chapter

Cc:

Nancy Sutley, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality
U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
Hon. Dennis Cardoza
Hon. Jim Costa
Hon. Jeff Denham
Hon. John Garamendi
Hon. Dan Lungren
Hon. Doris Matsui

Hon. Kevin McCarthy
Hon. Tom McClintock
Hon. Jerry McNerney
Hon. George Miller
Hon. Grace Napolitano
Hon. Devin Nunes
Hon. Jackie Speier
Hon. Mike Thompson